

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /085 W

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R 111611Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2453

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1024

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, WA, SF, PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: OWAMBO CABINET MEETS WITH VORSTER

REF: PRETORIA 2715 (NOTAL)

1. OWAMBO CHIEF MINISTER F. ELIFAS AND HIS CABINET MET WITH SA PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IN PRETORIA AUGUST 7. FOLLOWING TALKS PM VORSTER ANNOUNCED THAT SA TROOPS AND POLICE "WOULD REMAIN IN OWAMBO FOR AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT OF OWAMBO REGARDED THEIR PRESENCE AS ESSENTIAL FOR THE MAINTENCE OF LAW AND ORDER". ACCORDING OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER MEETING, OWAMBO MINISTER OF JUSTICE ASKED FOR THIS CONTINUED SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE.

2. DECISION MADE TO INTRODUCE PERMIT SYSTEM FOR BORDER CONTROL BETWEEN OWAMBO AND ANGOLA. IN PAST VIRTUALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ACROSS BORDER WAS ALLOWED

TO OVAMBO TRIBAL GROUPS WHICH STRADDLE BORDER. REGARDING BORDER PM VORSTER SAID, "I HAVE DECIDED THAT NOBODY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO ANGOLA WITHOUT A PERMIT."

3. OWAMBO CABINET REQUESTED INCREASED POWERS OVER ROAD TRANSPORT, HEALTH SERVICES AND INFORMATION FUNCTIONS. CHIEF ELIFAS REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT HE WAS COMMITTED TO INDEPENDENCE FOR OWAMBO AND SOUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO ENSURE THERE WOULD BE NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WITH THIS DESIRE. POWERS REQUESTED BY CABINET SEEN AS FURTHER STEP TOWARD AUTONOMY.

4. COMMENT: PERMIT SYSTEM FOR BORDER CROSSING OSTENSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGED ARREST THREE WEEKS AGO OF FOUR OVAMBOS IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA (REFTEL). GOVERNMENT ALSO MAY BE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS CROSSING BORDER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LIBERATION GROUPS OPERATING IN BORDER AREAS. REGARDING ELIFAS' COMMITMENT TO "INDEPENDENCE", IT STILL REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER HE WANTS FULL, INDEPENDENT STATEHOOD FOR OWAMBO OR UNDEFINED INTERNAL INDEPENDENCE WITHIN LARGER STATE. IN PAST ELIFAS HAS WAFFLED ON THIS QUESTION, BUT ACTUAL POSITION SHOULD BE CLARIFIED DURING UPCOMING ROUND-TABLE TALKS.
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